

Serial No.: 09/324,454  
Group Art Unit: 2661  
Examiner: Kenneth N. Vanderpuye

Remarks

Claims 1-6, 10-11, 15, 16, 18-29 remain in this application. Claim 19 has been canceled. Claims 18 and 20 have been amended. Claim 30 has been added.

The Examiner indicated that claims 1 through 6, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 21 through 29 were allowed and that claims 19 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim 18 and any intervening claims. Claim 18 has been amended above to include all the limitations of the claims 19 and claim 20 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 18. We thank the Examiner for the indications of allowance of the claims and requests reconsideration of the rejected claims in view of the above amendments.

Claim 30 has been added. The prior art fails to disclose, *inter alia*, the requirements of claim 30 of, "plural line cards interconnected to the message bus, each line card including a message bus interface circuit for sending and receiving messages on the bus, the messages comprising high and low priority messages having a variable sized length, wherein the variable lengths are bounded such that a latency is achieved to provide priority accesses of the message bus." As stated in the Office Action, U.S. Patent No. 5,854,786 to Henderson et al. (the Henderson reference) fails to teach messages comprising high and low priority messages having a message length that is bounded such that latency on the message bus is bounded. In addition, U.S. Patent No. 5,504,744 to Adams et al. (the Adams reference) at column 1, lines 39 through 48 only refers to the fact that ATM cells are fixed length cells. The length is set by definition of the standards from ITU-T. By definition, ATM cells have an information payload of 48 bytes. There is no discussion or suggestion in the Adams reference that an ATM message length be restricted or bounded to avoid latency since it only describes that ATM cells lengths are fixed, as set by standard. Thus, there is no teaching or suggestion to restrict the length of cells to avoid latency.

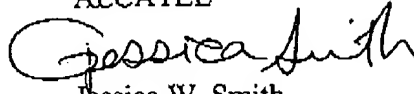
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CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, the foregoing amendment places the Application in condition for allowance. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn and full allowance granted. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, please contact Jessica Smith at (972) 477-9109.

Respectfully submitted,

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